



CAPT. UNDERWOOD'S BATTERY HAS DONE EXCELLENT WORK.

OUR MINIATURE WAR NOW BEING WAGED IN HAYTI

IN these days of gigantic conflicts many things happen and pass unnoticed which in more normal times would possibly create a stir. Thus there may be instances the state of affairs in Hayti, where the United States has had a nice little war on its hands for the better part of five months, and where once more the marines have done well the work out for them.

Brief items in the newspapers have recorded skirmishes between the American sea soldiers and the revolutionary natives, and occasionally a somewhat censored cable despatch has brought news of losses and wounds among the Americans; but the general public has had only an inkling of what has been the task of the marines in Hayti and the price that the corps has paid. Recently a battleship came north from the scene of trouble and out of a total guard of fifty marines 20 per cent. were more or less seriously marked by Haytian bullets.

As will be remembered, on July 27 last Guillaume, then President of Hayti, was assassinated by some of the revolutionary element and within twenty-four hours the United States cruiser squadron in the West Indies landed a force of marines and sailors at Port au Prince and Cape Haytien. The force of marines consisted of the Twelfth Company and the marine detachment of the Washington, and this was reinforced a day later by the Twenty-fourth Company from Guantanamo, Cuba, making a total of 240 sea soldiers. On July 30 500 more marines were hurried to Hayti on the Connecticut, but as conditions gathered gravity it was apparent that a larger force was needed.

Accordingly, the Tennessee was fitted out with an expeditionary force, and under the command of Col. Littleton W. T. Waller, U. S. M. C., these 2,000 marines were on the spot and ready for field service by August 15. The fighting equipment was later augmented by the

Artillery Battalion, consisting of three companies with an enlisted strength of 318 men and armed with twelve three inch landing guns and two 4.7 inch heavy field guns. Among these was Underwood's Battery, commanded by Capt. Robert O. Underwood, which has made a particularly conspicuous record for itself.

The marines were distributed so as to control strategic points, and command was thus assumed at the ports of Cape Haytien, Port de Paix, Gonaives, St. Marc, Port au Prince, Petit Goave, Miragoane, Jeremie, Les Cayes and Jacmel. In their prompt arrival upon the scene, their immediate fitness and the way the sea soldiers measured up to the tasks set them in a tropical climate are fresh proofs of the value of this fine body of fighting men. Officially this is what the Secretary of the Navy has reported regarding the battle services of the marines in Hayti:

"Control was effected of all the above cities without encountering any sustained resistance. The Cacos in the neighborhood of Cape Haytien and Gonaives, however, have been more or less openly hostile and have attempted to prevent supplies from reaching any of these cities.

"In an effort to permit the free access of supplies it has been necessary for the American forces to come in occasional conflict with the Cacos, and during these conflicts several Americans have been killed, and there have been some casualties among the Cacos. The American forces have at no time taken offensive action against any of the Haytians and have only returned the fire of attacking forces."

But a more enlightening account, with touches of local color, is given by a private of marines in a letter home.

"No trouble of any kind until September 26, when a sketching party was fired on by the rebels, and then we had a skirmish, ten men being wounded, two of them being members of my company," he writes. "At the time I and twenty-two other men of my company were on detached duty, serving with the Eleventh Com-



HOME MADE ARMORED TRUCK USED BY THE MARINES.

pany, under command of Capt. Hooker. In this argument the 'spies' lost about fifty killed and many more wounded.

"Back to camp about 8 o'clock that evening, and as it was Sunday we had our chicken dinner for supper. Up at 4:45 next morning and on our way by 6, taking the 3 inch field piece and all available machine guns, we arrived at noon at a small town used by the rebels as a gathering place. But they did not understand our style of fighting and only a few shots were fired at us. Col. Cole and staff 'chewed the fat' with some of the rebel chiefs and most of them agreed to lay down their arms. You should have seen the natives scatter when we trained one of the 3 inch guns on the town!

"A couple of days later a train was made up and sent to Grande Riviere, about eighteen miles from here, for coffee, and had carried a guard of marines, I being one of them. On the return trip we picked up over a thousand serviceable rifles, mostly French make, and of .45 calibre.

"We met one of our big trucks returning with a large load of rifles, ammunition and one old Spanish cannon. The truck has since made several trips, bringing in an average of 200 rifles to the load. Things look pretty quiet now, but there is no telling when trouble may break out again."

The island of Hayti is physically rugged, but nature has covered it with an abundant mantle of tropical vegetation. These circumstances combined have lent themselves peculiarly to the guerrilla type of warfare that the natives have found most effective for their purpose of resistance, and, incidentally, the problem of the marines has been made a correspondingly difficult one. But the sea soldiers have met the situation with characteristic resourcefulness, and while some of their military expedients have not been of the strictly orthodox order, still they have answered admirably in measuring force with the wily Cacos.

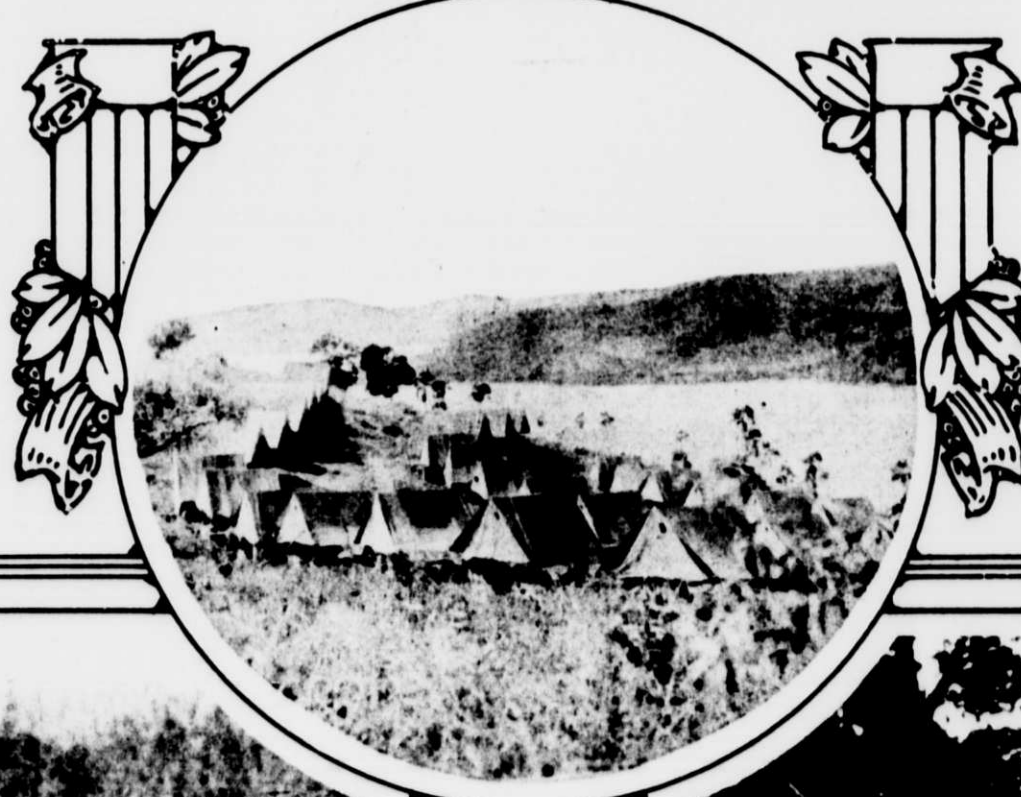
Some of the men sent to Hayti were recruits

from the depot at Norfolk, and there is a good deal of the humanly interesting in the way they behaved when they learned that they were to be despatched for active service and with the prospect of a possible scrap, in the bargain. One of the corporals at the Norfolk depot has described the occasion:

"The men were exceedingly happy that they were through with their training period and were at last being turned over for active duty. It was really interesting to watch the men individually. Every minute they could snatch for themselves was used for writing a few lines home to the folks, letting them know of their sudden and welcome transfer. Here and there you could see a few of them saying good-by to their less fortunate friends who were members of the junior companies. Surely, as far as these junior companies were concerned, every member of the detail was already a hero.

"At taps that night everybody turned in fully prepared to fall out on a moment's notice. At 10:45 P. M. word was received that the Connecticut had arrived in Hampton Roads and was waiting for the detail. Quietly the company commanders went through the company streets from tent to tent, telling their men to get ready as quickly and noiselessly as possible. Scarcely ten minutes had passed before every man of the detail was ready and had taken his proper place in ranks, and so quiet had they been that the men in the next company streets did not know they had left until they discovered the deserted tents in the morning."

It was not long before news was flashed back to the United States that the marines had arrived and were landed and that the situation was well in hand. Col. Waller is an old campaigner, and his tactfulness even more than the exercise of force has done a deal toward calming Hayti's political turmoil; but the fact that the marines are still exposed to danger there and have not yet been withdrawn is the best evidence of worse trouble avoided by their instant readiness when the call for them came.

CAMP OF
THE UNITED
STATES
MARINE
CORPS IN
HAYTI.

MACHINE GUN CARRIED BY MULE TRANSPORT.



TROOPS INDULGE IN BATTLE PRACTICE IN LIEU OF REAL FIGHTING.